

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/762,713

Examiner

Kamran Afshar, 571-272-7796

Applicant(s)

GROOTWASSINK, DAVID B.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-8, 11-13 and 16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Davis A. Fox, Reg. No: 38,807 on 10/20/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims:

5. (Amended) A process method for validating a roaming user who seeks access to a communications network operated by a first service provider, the process comprising:
determining that the user is associated with a second service provider;
requesting registration data for the user to the second service provider; and
validating or invalidating the user based on the registration data from the second service provider, the registration data identifying a status of the user and whether authentication of the user is required to validate the user;

wherein requesting registration data comprises requesting the registration data for the user within a predetermined period;

wherein validating or invalidating the user comprises invalidating the user regardless of the result of the registration data from the second service provider when the registration data is not received from the second service provider within the predetermined period.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said authentication is performed by the user entering a PIN.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising instructing the network of the first service provider to cancel the user's registration when the user is invalidated.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the registration data includes an authorization period of the user in the first service provider.

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9. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising requesting a Personal Identification Number to the user before providing a service to the user, when the user is validated.

12. (Amended) A process method for validating a customer of an international or other selected service provider, where the customer is attempting to use a communications network comprising at least a Mobile Switching Center ("MSC") and Visitor Location Register ("VLR"), the process comprising:

- receiving registration notification data from a particular customer;
- determining whether the customer is associated with a selected service provider;
- formulating at a Service Control Point ("SCP") a request for registration notification to a Home Location Register ("HLR") of the customer;
- receiving at the SCP information pertaining to the customer's validation, including a status of the user and whether authentication of the user is required to validate the user; and

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said authentication is performed by the user entering a PIN.

14. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising requesting a Personal Identification Number to the customer before providing a service to the customer, when the SCP forwards to the VLR the customer validation data.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-8, 11-13 and 16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: 5-8, 11-13 and 16.

With respect to claim 1, Adamany (U.S. Patent 6,615,041 B2) is the closest prior art to the application invention, which discloses a method for validating a roaming user who seeks access to a communications network operated by a first service provider (See Title, Abstract, Page 2, Paragraph [0012], Home system, MSC-H, Fig. 1), determining that the user is associated with a second service

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provider (See Co. 3, Lines 28-42, Visited system, MSC-V, Fig. 1); requesting registration data for the user to the second service provider (See e.g. Co. 9, Lines 7-24).

Lee (U.S. Patent 6,006,094), discloses method of routing an international call to a foreign mobile subscriber.

Lantto (U.S. Patent 5,610,974), discloses method and arrangement for handling a mobile telephone subscriber administered in different mobile telephone networks with a common call.

However, the prior art of record fails to disclose singly or in combination or render obvious validating or invalidating the user based on the registration data from the second service provider, the registration data identifying a status of the user and whether authentication of the user is required to validate the user; wherein requesting registration data comprises requesting the registration data for the user within a predetermined period; wherein validating or invalidating the user comprises invalidating the user regardless of the result of the registration data from the second service provider when the registration data is not received from the second service provider within the predetermined period.

With respect to claim 12, the prior art of record fails to disclose singly or in combination or render obvious that forwarding from the SCP to the VLR either customer validation data or a request to cancel the customer's registration within the VLR; wherein receiving at the SCP information pertaining to the customer's validation comprises receiving at the SCP information pertaining to the customer's validation within a predetermined time period; wherein forwarding from the SCP to the VLR either customer validation data or a request to cancel the customer's registration within the VLR comprises forwarding the request to cancel the customer's registration with the VLR when the SCP does not receive the information within the predetermined time period.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- a) Daniels (U.S. 6,058,301), which discloses Cellular fraud prevention using selective roaming.
 - b) Suzuki (U.S. 6,041,231), which discloses Mobile communication system with roaming function.
 - c) Wiehe (U.S. 6,035,198), which discloses Method and system for determining the location of a mobile radiocommunication subscriber registered in a cellular mobile radiotelephone network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Kamran Afshar whose telephone number is (571) 272-7796. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by the telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Feild, Joseph** can be reached @ (571) 272-4090. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300** for all communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kamran Afshar


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER